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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			LONSBERRY, HUNTER B	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/708,256	KIMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hunter B. Lonsberry	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-70 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6,9-13,16-41,43-45,47-64 and 66-70 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 7,8,14,15,42,46 and 65 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 November 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/12/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 7, 8, 14, 15, 42, 46, and 65 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim can not depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 7, 8, 14, 15, 42, 46, and 65 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 9-13, 16-41, 43-45, 47-64, and 66-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,588,012 to Tanaka.

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Tanaka discloses an information transmission system (figure 1) in which one or more information output apparatuses (2-2 through 2-7) that output an information signal and an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of

the information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are connected to each other, wherein each information output apparatus comprises:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by

causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31); and

identifying means for identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected by the information-for- identification detecting means as an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending means (column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed).

Regarding claims 2 and 4, Tanaka discloses an information transmission system (figure 1) in which one or more information output apparatuses (2-2 through 2-7) that output an information signal and an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of the information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are connected to each other, wherein each information output apparatus comprises:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction

for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4,

lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a

corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31);

notifying means for notifying a user about the information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied from an input terminal to which switching is made by the switching means by reproducing the information for identification (column 3, line 59-column4, line 44, information is retrieved and displayed to the user, access information is utilized to output the corresponding information from the proper device)

and decision manipulation means for accepting a manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that

sent the specific information (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device).

Regarding claims 5-6, Tanaka discloses that the input apparatus further comprises connection management information recording means for recording, when the decision manipulation means accepts the deciding manipulation, input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which switching information is made by the switching means and the specific information of the information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other. (column 3, line 58-column 4, line 44, memory stores the access information which identifies which device the corresponding content resides, as well as the location of the data itself, such as TV channel numbers, start times, URLs telephone numbers and the like, a user selects the desired programming and it is displayed, column 9, lines 45-49).

Regarding claims 9-10, Tanaka discloses connection management information supply request generating means for generating a request for supplying connection management information stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other (the terminal performs a search in which retrieval information is retrieved and stores the

access information which identifies each device and the location of each content to be accessed by the respective device, column 3, line 59-column 4, line 26); and

switching control signal generating means for generating a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request (column 4, lines 45-55, column 9, lines 4-24); and

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal the information output apparatus sends, via related information sending means, the connection management information supply request and the switching control signal generated by the switching control signal generating means (column 9, lines 4-24).

Regarding claim 11, Tanaka discloses that the system outputs a display message on the information signal when the information signal is a video signal (column 8, lines 47-50).

Regarding claim 12, Tanaka discloses that the system outputs a voice message on the information signal when the information signal is an audio signal (column 6, line 66-column 7, line 13, column 8, lines 50-51).

Regarding claim 13, Tanaka discloses that the information for identification superimposing means of the information output apparatus superimposes pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification on the information signal as information for detection (column 3, lines 59-67),

The information for identification detecting means of the information input apparatus detects the pattern information superimposed on the information signal (column 4, lines 37-44).

Regarding claim 16, Tanaka discloses that the information output apparatus further comprises manipulation means for accepting a start instruction that commands start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus (column 5, lines 14-19),

The related information sending means sends the specific information when the manipulation means accepts the start instruction input (column 5, lines 20-44), and

The information for identification superimposing means superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the manipulation means accepts the start instruction input (column 5, lines 20-44).

Claim 17 is met by the discussion of claim 16, with Tanaka additionally disclosing a connection change detecting means for detecting a connection change in any of the input terminals of the self apparatus (column 5, lines 14-44), and

Start request sending means for sending the start request when the connection change detecting means detects a connection change in any of the input terminals (column 5, lines 14-44).

Regarding claim 18, Tanaka discloses that the output of the information output apparatus and the input terminal of the information input apparatus are connected to each other via a communication interface for an analog signal (figure 1, connection between CATV tuner 2-5 and display device 2-12).

Regarding claim 19, Tanaka discloses that the first interface is an analog interface (telephone line 2-2, modem 2-3) and the second interface (data pathways between 2-2, 2-3, and the CPU 2-1) are digital (column 8, lines 33-37, the second interface must be digital as the CPU manipulates the internet data for display).

Regarding claim 20, Tanaka discloses an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) that outputs an information signal and an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of the information signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device);

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed.

Regarding claim 21, Tanaka discloses an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) that output an information signal and an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of the information signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4,

lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed).

Regarding claim 22, Tanaka discloses an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) connected via a first communication interface (data line) for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface (control line) capable of enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information to an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of the information signal and additional information via the second communications interface, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed.

Regarding claim 23, Tanaka discloses an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) connected via a first communication interface (data line) for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface (control line) capable of enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information to an information input apparatus 2-1 that accepts input of the information signal and additional information via the second communications interface, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed).

Regarding claim 24, see claim 6.

Regarding claim 25, Tanaka discloses that the information output apparatus sends to the information input apparatus via the information sending means, a switching

control signal (column 8, lines 45-51) including the specific information of the self apparatus and to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus before outputting the information signal via the output terminal (column 4, lines 9-44).

Regarding claim 26, see claim 9.

Regarding claim 27, Tanaka discloses that the information output apparatus further comprises manipulation means for accepting a start instruction that commands start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus (column 5, lines 14-19),

The related information sending means sends the specific information when the manipulation means accepts the start instruction input (column 5, lines 20-44), and

The information for identification superimposing means superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the manipulation means accepts the start instruction input (column 5, lines 20-44).

Regarding claims 28-30, see claims 11-13

Regarding claim 31, Tanaka discloses that the terminal may detect if the specific information is not stored, and the information for identification super imposing means superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the

detecting means detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 26, if the information is not stored locally the terminal connects to a server to retrieve it).

Regarding claim 32, see claim 16.

Regarding claims 33-34 see claims 18-19.

Regarding claim 35, Tanaka discloses an information input apparatus 2-1 connected to an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) having an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (display signals) and capable of sending specific information of an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4,

lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31); and

identifying means for identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected by the information-for- identification detecting means as an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending means (column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed).

Regarding claim 36, Tanaka discloses an information input apparatus 2-1 connected to an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) having an output

terminal for outputting only an information signal (display signals) and capable of sending specific information of an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by

causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31);

notifying means for notifying a user about the information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied from an input terminal to which switching is made by the switching means by reproducing the information for identification (column 3, line 59-column4, line 44, information is retrieved and displayed to the user, access information is utilized to output the corresponding information from the proper device)

and decision manipulation means for accepting a manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device).

Regarding claim 37, Tanaka discloses an information input apparatus 2-1 connected via a first communication interface (data line) for transmission of only an information signal and second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information (control line) to an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) having an output terminal for the first communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31); and

identifying means for identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected by the information-for- identification

detecting means as an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending means (column 4, lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed).

Regarding claim 38, Tanaka discloses an information input apparatus 2-1 connected via a first communication interface (data line) for transmission of only an information signal and second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information (control line) to an information output apparatus (2-2 through 2-7) having an output terminal for the first communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal (data signal which is outputted from each device ;

related information sending means for sending at least specific information of an electronic apparatus (control data); and

information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device, Figure 2b, column 4,

lines 9-44, each device is accessed via access information which identifies a corresponding input device and the location of content to be displayed); and

the information input apparatus comprises:

a plurality of input terminals (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of only the information signal;

specific information accepting means (selectors 2-9, 2-13, 2- 6, 2-18 each of which receives control data) for accepting input of the specific information;

switching means2-11 for switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51);

information-for-identification detecting means 2-1 for detecting the information for identification from each of the information signals that are accepted by the terminals by causing the switching means to switch among the respective input terminals (column8, lines 28-31);

notifying means for notifying a user about the information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied from an input terminal to which switching is made by the switching means by reproducing the information for identification (column 3, line 59-column4, line 44, information is retrieved and displayed to the user, access information is utilized to output the corresponding information from the proper device)

and decision manipulation means for accepting a manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that

sent the specific information (column 9, lines 7-12, user inputs a retrieval instruction for a corresponding device and the user may select the device).

Regarding claims 39-40 see claims 5-6.

Regarding claim 41, see claim 25.

Regarding claims 43-45, see claims 11-13.

Regarding claim 46 see claim 31.

Regarding claims 47-49, see claims 17-19.

Regarding claims 50-51, Tanaka discloses a connection relationship identification method (figure 2 a/b) for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus 2-1 to which an information output apparatus (22-2 through 2-7) is connected in a case where the information output apparatus is connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of input terminals of the information input apparatus for accepting input of only an information signal (data connection) and the information input apparatus is capable of accepting specific information of an electronic apparatus (access data) comprising the steps of:

The information output apparatus sending specific information of the self-apparatus to the information input apparatus (user request for access information, column 3, lines 50-column 4, line 26)

The information output apparatus's sending information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus (column 4, lines 9-18, access information identifies which device accesses which content and where it is stored)

Information input apparatus detecting the information for identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 28-31), and identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal send from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information (column 4, lines 9-18, access information identifies which device accesses which content and where it is stored).

Regarding claims 52-53, Tanaka discloses a connection relationship identification method (figure 2 a/b) for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus 2-1 to which an information output apparatus (22-2 through 2-7) is connected in a case where the information output apparatus is connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of input terminals of the information

input apparatus for accepting input of only an information signal (data connection) via a first communication interface and a second communication interface (control data) enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information comprising the steps of:

The information output apparatus sending specific information of the self-apparatus to the information input apparatus (user request for access information, column 3, lines 50-column 4, line 26) via the second interface,

The information output apparatus's sending information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus via the first interface (column 4, lines 9-18, access information identifies which device accesses which content and where it is stored)

Information input apparatus detecting the information for identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 28-31), and identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal send from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information (column 4, lines 9-18, access information identifies which device accesses which content and where it is stored).

Regarding claims 54-55, Tanaka discloses a connection relationship identification method (figure 2 a/b) for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus 2-1 to which an information output apparatus (22-2 through 2-7) is connected in a case where the information output apparatus is connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of input terminals of the information input apparatus for accepting input of only an information signal (data connection) and the information input apparatus is capable of accepting specific information of an electronic apparatus (access data) comprising the steps of:

a start request transmitting step in which the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request (column 5, lines 14-19), that includes specific information of the self apparatus and requests start of processing identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected (column 5, lines 19-44);

an information-for-identification sending step which the information output apparatus sends information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus (column 4, lines 9-25, column 5, lines 19-44, access information is utilized to locate which input terminal has the content and where it is located)

an information-for-identification detecting step (column 4, lines 9-25, column 5, lines 19-44) in which the information input apparatus detects the information for

identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51); and

an input terminal identifying step in which the information input apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information signal from which the identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information when the information is detected in the detection of the information for identification detecting step (column 4, lines,9-25, column 5, lines 19-44, access information is utilize to locate which input terminal has the content and where it is located).

Regarding claims 56-57, Tanaka discloses a connection relationship identification method (figure 2 a/b) for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus 2-1 to which an information output apparatus (22-2 through 2-7) is connected in a case where the information output apparatus is connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of input terminals of the information input apparatus for accepting input of only an information signal (data connection) via a first communication interface and a second communication interface (control data) enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information comprising the steps of:

a start request transmitting step in which the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request (column 5, lines 14-19), that includes specific information of the self apparatus and requests start of processing identifying an

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input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected (column 5, lines 19-44);

an information-for-identification sending step which the information output apparatus sends information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus (column 4, lines 9-25, column 5, lines 19-44, access information is utilized to locate which input terminal has the content and where it is located)

an information-for-identification detecting step (column 4, lines 9-25, column 5, lines 19-44) in which the information input apparatus detects the information for identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals (column 8, lines 45-51); and

an input terminal identifying step in which the information input apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information signal from which the identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information when the information is detected in the detection of the information for identification detecting step (column 4, lines 9-25, column 5, lines 19-44, access information is utilized to locate which input terminal has the content and where it is located).

Regarding claim 58, see claim 6.

Regarding claim 59, Tanaka discloses that the information output apparatus sends to the information input apparatus via the information sending means, a switching control signal (column 8, lines 45-51) including the specific information of the self apparatus and to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus before outputting the information signal via the output terminal (column 4, lines 9-44).

Regarding claim 60, see claim 25.

Regarding claim 61, see claim 10.

Regarding claims 62-64, see claims 11-13.

Regarding claim 66, see claim 31.

Regarding claims 67-70, see claims 16-19.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 6,219,839 to Sampsell: On-Screen Electronic Resources Guide.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hunter B. Lonsberry whose telephone number is 571-272-7298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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HBL



HAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER